A Note from the Publisher

I'd like to start this off with a few notes concerning our upcoming U.S. Tour. We have received some letters in the mail from people who either want their Cerebus #1's authenticated (which Dave will be happy to do for you via the mail) or are saying that they are having a bit of trouble selling or trading their Cerebus #1's, because some folks aren't sure that they want to take the chance on buying what may turn out to be a counterfeit copy. If Dave and I happen to be coming to your area this fall -we would be quite happy to authenticate your book for you (or let you know if it turns out to be a counterfeit one). It is quite easy for Dave to tell the two apart, and we are in fact, considering bringing a copy of the counterfeit one and a genuine one with us, so our readers can see the difference with their own eyes. While I am on the subject of the counterfeit books, I would like to make a few points clear. First of all -- there is one sure-fire way to tell the difference between the two books. If you open the book to the inside cover (front or back, it doesn't matter which), you will see one of two things. If it's a nice glossy black -- you have a counterfeit book. If the blacks are dull, with a kind of greyish tinge to them, then you have the original book. There are no exceptions to this rule! We could not afford to buy paper that was varnished on two sides at the time we started Cerebus -- even though this is almost a standard for comic books, so the difference is quite obvious. There are also some rumors going around that some of the counterfeits that are showing up are not counterfeits at all, but that a box of Cerebus #1's had been stored away in someone's warehouse and "just happened" to show up at the same time that the counterfeits showed up. I have checked this possibility out quite thoroughly and have found no basis for this theory. I know where **all two thousand** copies went, they are all accounted for within our first year of publishing. This isn't that unusual with so small a print run. There are no 'miracle finds' lying around, as much as we understand people wanting to believe that this is so. In fact, I would like to announce here that Dave and I have decided that we have been taking this counterfeit thing a little too lightly. Aardvark-Vanaheim is now offering a reward of $1000.00 (this is in addition to the $1000.00 reward being offered by the Distributors Association) for anyone who gives us information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for this. We have been approached by an American copyright lawyer who told us some things concerning U.S. copyright laws that we were not aware of. This lawyer in now looking into this matter for us. I think that the time has come for us to get serious about this.

On to more pleasant news. The response to our present U.S. Tour has been so great that I am asking those shops who would be interested in participating in a possible future tour to send me a note saying so, along with either a business card or something that had **all** the pertinent information on it. This includes the name of the shop, it's address, phone number, and who I contact if I should start setting things up. Needless to say, we can fit no more shops into our present tour.

For those who didn't catch the information in an earlier editorial, Barry Windsor-Smith **will not be** doing the cover to Swords IV (which is at the printers at this time). We will be talking to Barry in the future about doing something, it just isn't possible for him right now.

(A bit of news concerning Unique Stories . . . . . .)

Due to the fact that we have gotten so much mail on Bill Loebs "Welcome to Heaven, Dr. Franklin", we will be doing more stuff with Bill in the near future. Besides another story for Unique, we are considering a six-part mini-series by Bill to come out on a bi-monthly basis as a continuing story.

What do you think? If you would like to see this, I'd really like to hear from you. It also wouldn't hurt to let your local comic shop know, either. (It always helps if the distributors think they can sell it). Also -- for those of you who are asking, 'What ever happened to Arn Saba's Neil the Horse?' I can tell you, now. Arn has moved from Toronto to Los Angeles, where he is hoping to get together some work for Aardvark-Vanaheim with the help of some generous California friends where he is staying. The Neil the Horse strip (as seen in this issue) is the first of two or possibly three to come out by Arn for Unique Stories. He is also working on a 60 - 80 page collection of Neil the Horse, which we hope will be out in December or January. (Please don't hold me to this, however, as even Arn isn't sure if he can get it done that quickly.) If you would like to see more of Arn, you can let him know by letting me know. Another artist soon to join the ranks of Aardvark-Vanaheim's growing family is Michael Gilbert. Michael is currently working on a 60-page book entitled "Strange Brew" which we hope will be coming out soon. Michael, who is best known for his 'Spirit' parody "The Wraith", has been working on this book for some while and we are now at the stage where we will be approaching distributors for orders. Keep your eyes open as his work will be appearing in Unique Stories in a short while and I am sure that Michael's work will be highly appreciated by those of you who enjoy the humour in Cerebus.

As my last piece of news, there is a radio station in Minneapolis, Minnesota (KSAI, 90.3 FM) which will be doing radio show adaptations of Cerebus on their Tuesday evening program, "Shockwave", which airs between six and seven p.m. The first show, an adaptation of Cerebus #1, (they are adapting the story issue by issue), will be on the air Tuesday, August 31st, with each show on successive Tuesday nights. They will be doing the following issues . . . September 7th, Issue Two and September 14th, Issue Three, etc. etc. Dave and I have received a cassette of the first show, and are delighted with the end results. It has a real professional sound to it and the people who are doing it are real fans of the book - so the enjoyment shows through. If you are in the Minneapolis area, I urge you to take the time to listen to this show. If you enjoy it, write and tell them so. If they can show that there is sufficient interest, they are going to try to get a grant to continue the adaptations. We are thinking we might see about producing these shows into 3 or 4 issue one-hour long tapes that we could make available to those who aren't in the Minneapolis area. Any reaction to this idea, pro or con, would be appreciated by Dave and I.

I think that I had best cut off at this point. My writer's cramp will be showing up in full force if I make this kind of length a habit. This has got to be the longest letter I've written to you yet. But then again, can I help it if so much is going on? I will try to keep you all informed as things progress. Until next issue!!

Deni

CEREBUS

VOL. 1 NO. 41 AUGUST 1982

Publisher
Deni Sim

Distributors:
Bud Plant Inc.
P.O. Box 1886
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Pacific Comics
P.O. Box 99217
San Diego, CA 92109

Glenwood Distribution
124 Vandalia St.
Collinsville, IL 62234

Capital City Distributors
2827 Perry Street
Madison, WI 53713

Diamond Comics
Distributors Inc.
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Bay B - 2
Baltimore, MD 21207

Longhorn Books
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Styx Comic Service
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Winnipeg, Man., Canada
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Now & Then Books
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N2G 1W1

Andromeda Publications
323 Queen St. W.
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M5V 2A4

Titan Distributors
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London, E3 4RT England

Cerebus Fan Club
c/o Fred Patten
11863 West Jefferson Blvd.
Culver City, CA 90230
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AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

CEREBUS

$1.50

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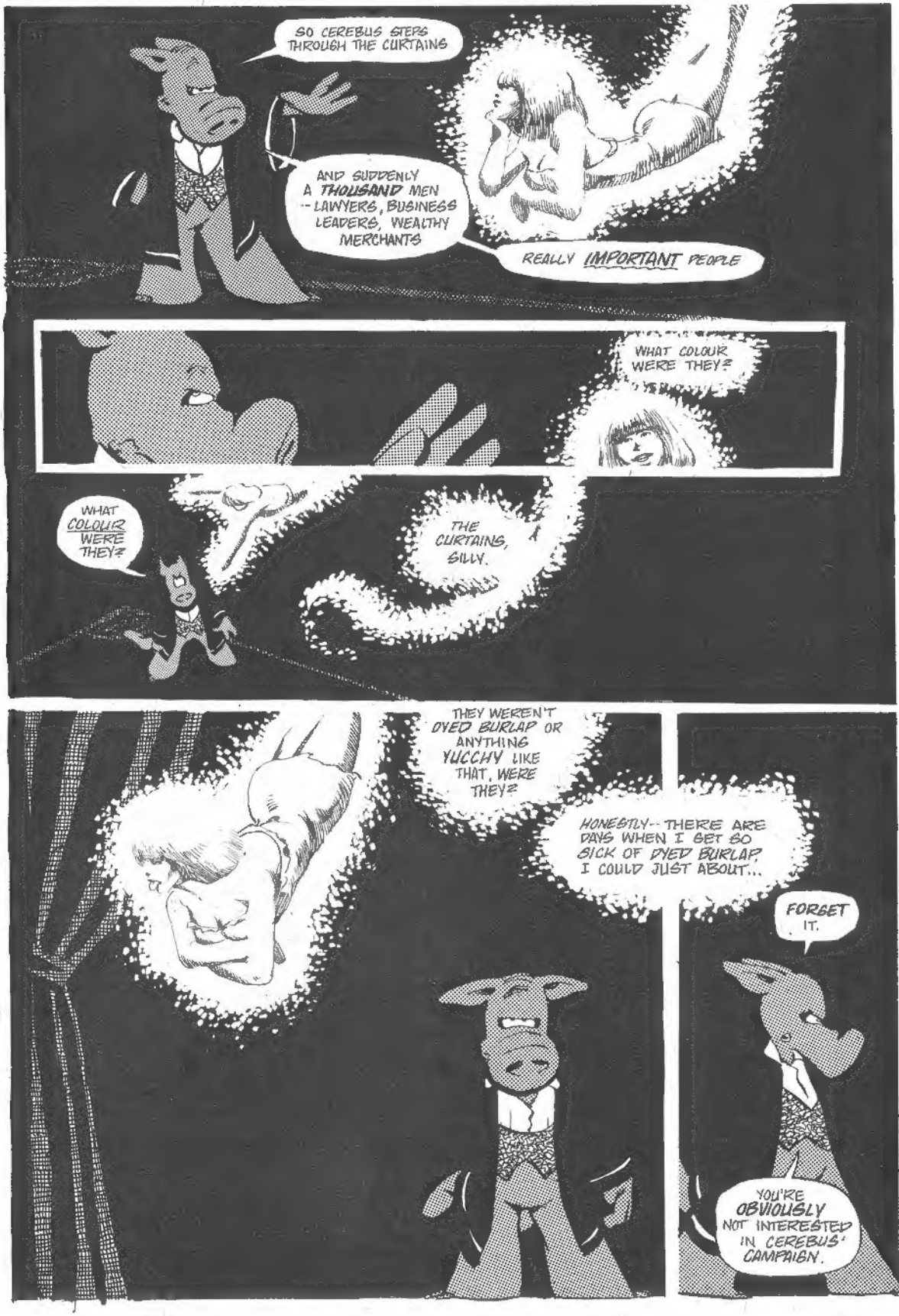
Cerebus the Aardvark


SO CEREBUS STEPS THROUGH THE CURTAINS
AND SUDDENLY A THOUSAND MEN -- LAWYERS, BUSINESS LEADERS, WEALTHY MERCHANTS
REALLY IMPORTANT PEOPLE
WHAT COLOUR WERE THEY?
WHAT COLOUR WERE THEY?
THE CURTAINS, SILLY.
THEY WEREN'T DYED BURLAP OR ANYTHING YUCCHY LIKE THAT, WERE THEY?
HONESTLY-- THERE ARE DAYS WHEN I GET SO SICK OF DYED BURLAP I COULD JUST ABOUT...
FORGET IT.
YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY NOT INTERESTED IN CEREBUS' CAMPAIGN.

OH, BUT I AM! I AM! REALLY!
REALLY!
I JUST ASKED ABOUT THE CURTAINS BECAUSE
OOOOH!
I'M SORRY I'M SORRY
TELL ME ABOUT YOUR CAMPAIGN
PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE
PLEEEEEEASE...
SO CEREBUS STEPS THROUGH THE CURTAINS AND SUDDENLY ALMOST TWO THOUSAND MEN LEAP TO THEIR FEET
MILLIONAIRES, CHURCH OFFICIALS, IMPORTANT REPRESENTATIVES, BANKERS
AND ALL AT ONCE...
KNOCK
K

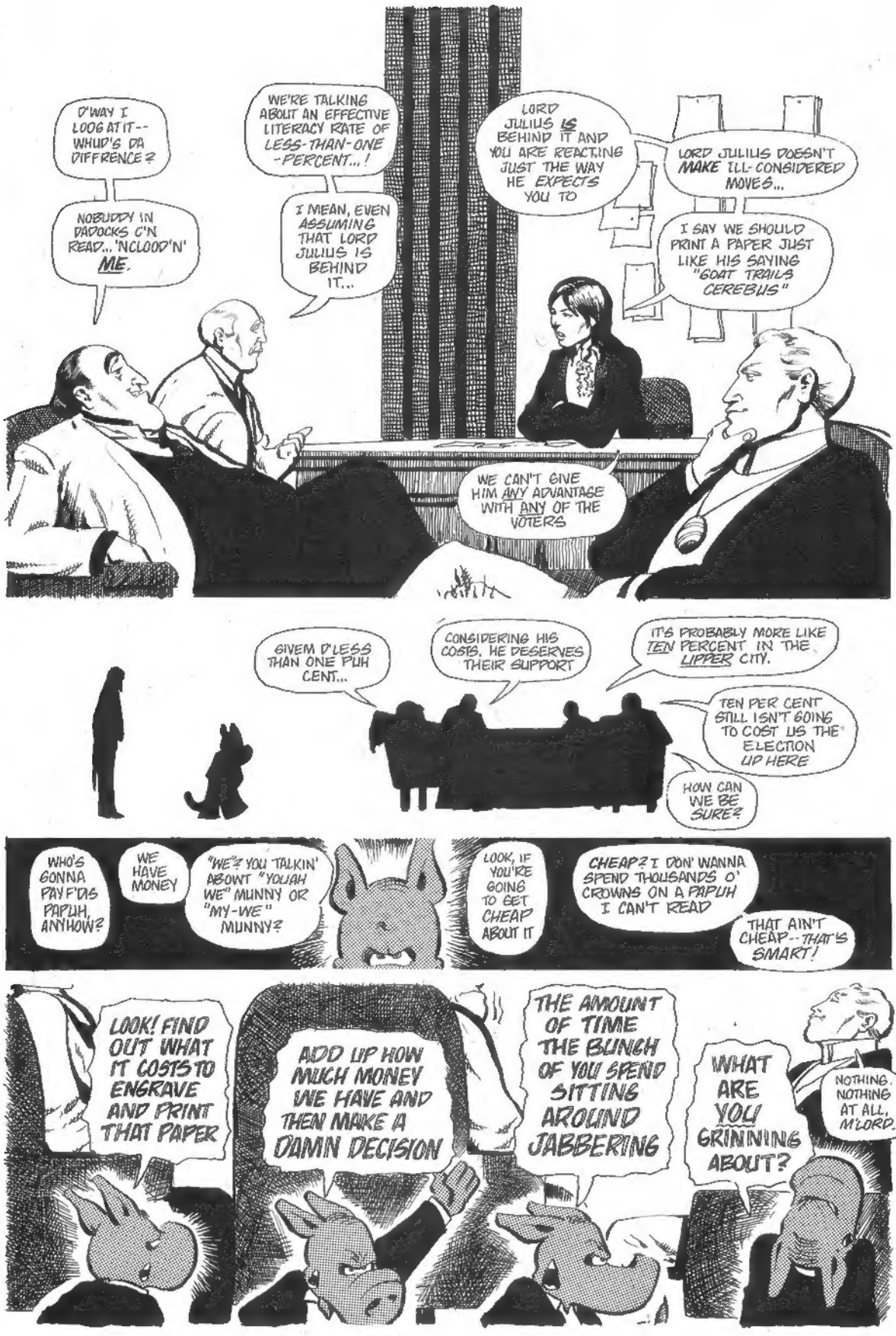
HEROES
WHAT IS IT BUG!? WHAT?
STAND UP STRAIGHT! YOU LOOK LIKE LORD JULIUS' PERSONAL ACCOUNTANT ... HUH?
The Times
AARDVARK TRAILS GOAT IN DOCKS, SUBURBS
YOU MEAN CEREBUS IS LOSING TO THAT DUMB ANIMAL...
WHO KNOWS
WHO CARES
WHAT'S THE MATTER BUG? DID SOMEBODY SAW THROUGH YOUR ORPHANS AGAIN?
ASTORIA DOESN'T LOVE ... M ... ME
SHE
L ... LOVES
YOU!

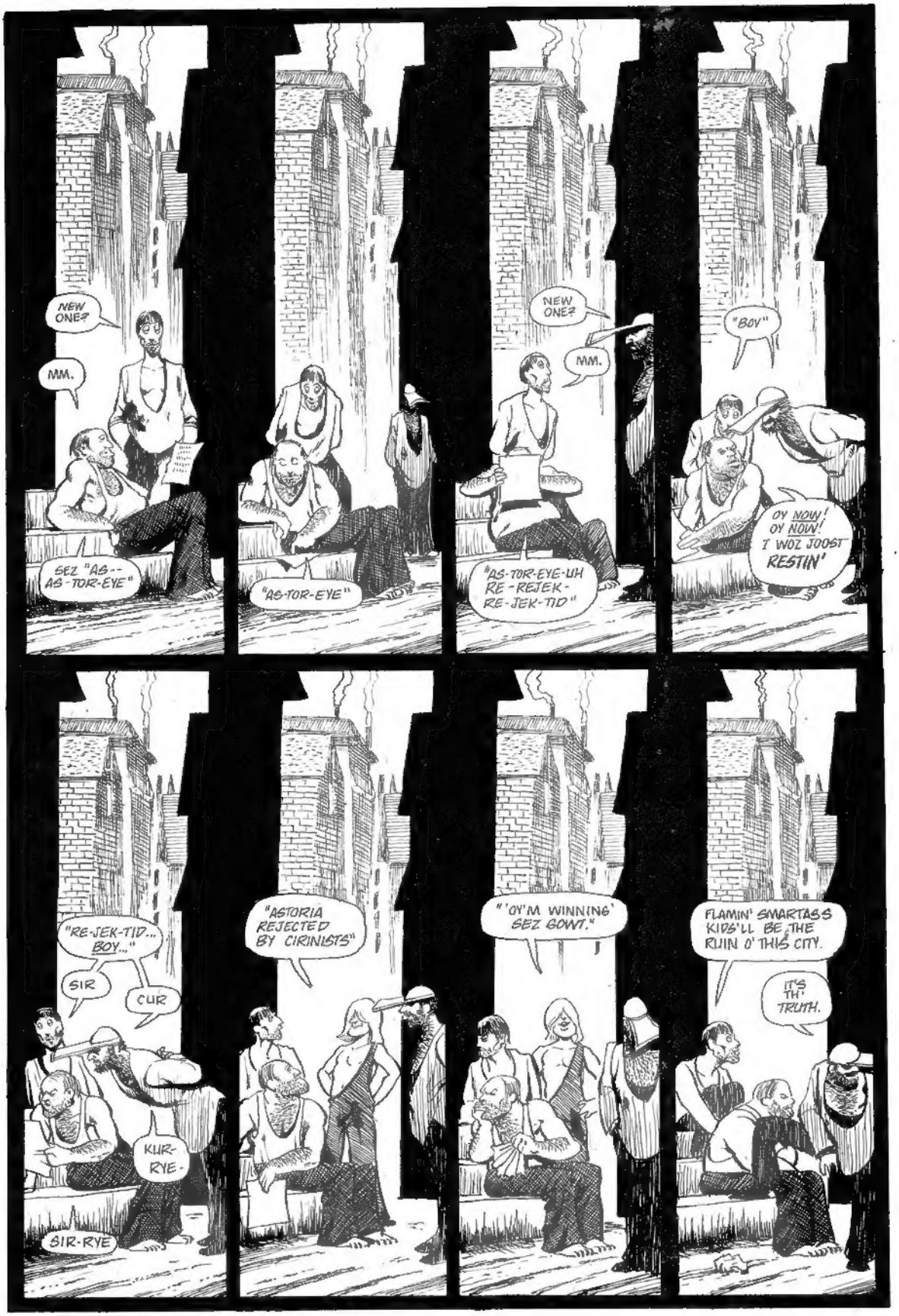
IT'S NOT FAIR! I'M TALLER AND STRONGER! I'M MORE SENSITIVE! MORE HEROIC!
THE PIECE OF PAPER, BUG -- WHERE'D YOU ...?
SUDDENLY, REALIZING WHAT A FOOL HE'S MAKING OF HIMSELF, THE MOON ROACH STRAIGHTENS UP!
HIS EYES NARROW TO THIN SLITS OF ICY CONTEMPT.
"TO BE HONEST," HE HISSES...
I DON'T CARE, KEVITCH! I DON'T! I DON'T! JUST LEAVE ME ALONE--ALL OF YOU!! I WANT TO DIE! DIE!! DIE!!

KNOCK KNOCK

THAT'S HER!
SHE
I'D KNOW HER KNOCK ANYWHERE
OH NO!
THINK! THINK!
EXCUSE ME, BUG.
I'LL SET A TRAP!
NO!
I'LL HIDE!
NO, NO!
HAVE TO SHOW HER THE MOON ROACH CAN'T BE HURT.
ABRUPTLY, THE MOON ROACH LEAPS INTO A NEARBY CHAIR AND STRIKES A CASUAL POSE...
HO-HUM. DID YOU HEAR A KNOCK JUST THEN?

WHOEVER IT IS, TELL THEM THEY CAN'T STAY BECAUSE I HAVE EIGHT CHICKS COMING OVER IN A WHILE TO PLAY SPIN-THE-BOTTLE AND I DON'T WANT THE JOINT TOO CROWDED, OKAY?
YOU CAN'T STAY BECAUSE HE'S GOT EIGHT CHICKS COMING OVER IN A WHILE TO PLAY SPIN-THE-BOTTLE AND HE ...
AH HEARD! AH HEARD!
OF ALL TH' DOUBLE-DEALIN' TWO-FACED SELFY-CENTERED
"BOOTSIE" MAKES ASTORIA LOOK LIKE FIVE MILES OF BAD ROAD...
BUT WHOEVER-YOU-ARE-THAT-JUST-CAME-IN DON'T TELL ASTORIA I SAID SO...
IT MIGHT HURT HER FEELINGS
YOU JEST WAIT'N' SEE IF'N AH EVER TAKE YUH WITH ME TUH MAGGIE'S CATHOUSE AGIN!
OH NO
AH DON' NEED HIM T'GIT NO THIRTY PER CENT DISCOUNT... NOSIREE! IT WUZ ME THET WON TH' ENDOORANCE RALLY -- NOT THET NO-ACCOUNT FUNNY BOY BUG...
SO WHAT DOES ASTORIA WANT CEREBUS FOR.
DANGED IF'N AH KNOW! SHE GEZ FETCH 'N' AH FETCH...
WHAAH! FIRST I LOSE ASTORIA ...
AND NOW MY THIRTY PER CENT DISCOUNT AT MAGGIE'S


D'WAY I LOOG AT IT-- WHUD'S DA DIFFRENCE?
NOBUDDY IN DADOCKS C'N READ... 'NCLOOD'N' ME.
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT AN EFFECTIVE LITERACY RATE OF LESS-THAN-ONE -PERCENT...!
I MEAN, EVEN ASSUMING THAT LORD JULIUS IS BEHIND IT...
LORD JULIUS IS BEHIND IT AND YOU ARE REACTING JUST THE WAY HE EXPECTS YOU TO
LORD JULIUS DOESN'T MAKE ILL-CONSIDERED MOVES...
I SAY WE SHOULD PRINT A PAPER JUST LIKE HIS SAYING "GOAT TRAILS CEREBUS"
WE CAN'T GIVE HIM ANY ADVANTAGE WITH ANY OF THE VOTERS
GIVEM D'LESS THAN ONE PUH CENT...
CONSIDERING HIS COSTS, HE DESERVES THEIR SUPPORT
IT'S PROBABLY MORE LIKE TEN PERCENT IN THE LIPPER CITY.
TEN PER CENT STILL ISN'T GOING TO COST US THE ELECTION UP HERE
HOW CAN WE BE SURE?
WHO'S GONNA PAY F'DAS PAPUH, ANYHOW?
WE HAVE MONEY
"WE"? YOU TALKIN' ABOWT "YOUAH WE" MUNNY OR "MY-WE" MUNNY?
LOOK, IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET CHEAP ABOUT IT
CHEAP? I DON' WANNA SPEND THOUSANDS O' CROWNS ON A PAPUH I CAN'T READ
THAT AIN'T CHEAP-- THAT'S SMART!
LOOK! FIND OUT WHAT IT COSTS TO ENGRAVE AND PRINT THAT PAPER
ADD UP HOW MUCH MONEY WE HAVE AND THEN MAKE A DAMN DECISION
THE AMOUNT OF TIME THE BUNCH OF YOU SPEND SITTING AROUND JABBERING
WHAT ARE YOU GRINNING ABOUT?
NOTHING, NOTHING AT ALL, M'LORD.


NEW ONE?
MM.
SEZ "AS-- AS-TOR-EYE"
"AS-TOR-EYE"
NEW ONE?
MM.
"AS-TOR-EYE-UH RE-REJEK-RE-JEK-TID"
"BOY"
OY NOW! OY NOW! I WOZ JOOST RESTIN'
"RE-JEK-TID.. BOY.."
SIR
CUR
KUR-RYE-
SIR-RYE
"ASTORIA REJECTED BY CIRINISTS"
"'OY'M WINNING' SEZ GOWT."
FLAMIN' SMARTASS KIDS'LL BE THE RUIN O' THIS CITY.
IT'S TH' TRUTH.

GLUP GLUP
AN' SO I ENNEDUP IN'ER ROOM WITH BLOOD POUREEN OUTTA ME'N' SHE SEZ, "OOOH" SHE SEZ
"YER HURD," SHE SEZ
THANGS. THANG YOO.
DAM STRADE I'M HURD!
WOODEN YOO BEER
GLUP GLUP GLUPPA
HERE-- YOO 'AVE TH'REST...
AS FER MEE!...
I GOT THINGS T'GO AN' PLACES T'DO!...
SO!!
IT'SUP-UP AN' AWWOOOOOO
WHEW

I TELL YOU, IF HE DOESN'T START SHOWING A LITTLE MORE ENTHUSIASM, I'M GOING TO QUIT...
NOW ASTORIA.
I EVEN EXPLAINED TO HIM HOW BADLY WE NEED THE NINETEEN REPRESENTATIVES
I'M BEGINNING TO THINK HE WANTS TO LOSE JUST TO SPITE ME.
OH, I DON'T KNOW DO YOU THINK HE WANTS TO LOSE, FILGATE?
HE NEEDS DADOCKS MOAH DEN DADOCKS NEEDS HIM DAT'S ALL I KNOW
'AT'S 'ER... THE ONE INNA BACK
AS-TOR-EYE-UH?
HE EITHER WANTS TO LOSE OR HE FIGURES THAT SOMEHOW...
AM I? AM I REALLY?
... HE CAN CONJURE THE FIFTEEN SEATS HE NEEDS OUT OF THIN AIR.
THEKESA, DEAR -- STOP STARING AT MR McGREEN YOU'RE MAKING HIM NERVOUS...

CEREBUS TOLD YOU FROM THE BEGINNING HE WAS GOING TO WIN.
YOU HAVEN'T WON JUST YET, GREAT CEREBUS
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME..
AH THINK HE'S RIGHT YER MUFIN-SHIP
VERY LITTLE TIME
THE MOON ROACH SILENTLY DISAGREES THE AARDVARK HAD MADE IT THIS FAR ON SHEER DUMB LUCK.
KEVITCH CONCUR'S WITH THAT
I SUSPECT YOU'RE TRYING TO CONVINCE ME BY CONVINCING YOURSELF
IN OR OUT?
IN
HA-HA! A PAIR O' PRIESTESSES!
HE DID HAVE THE OTHER ONE!
PERHAPS I KNOW YOU BETTER THAN YOU THINK I DO.
YOU DON'T KNOW CEREBUS VERY WELL, THEN

WHEN CEREBUS IS ELECTED, YOU WILL HAVE A VERY GOOD JOB, NO?
WAL, AH SPECT SO, MISS
SAY! IZ NIT A MITE TOO DRAFTY IN HYAR
WITH YER DRESS UN BUTTONED CLEAR DOWN
TUH Y'
YER Y'
THERESA!
YES M'LADY?
FIND THE CANDIDATE AND TELL HIM IT'S TIME FOR HIM TO GIVE HIS SPEECH
YES, M'LADY
PLEASE, YER LENIENCY, AH DINT ASK ER TUH...
OF COURSE YOU DIDN'T
SHE'S A MERE CHILD
WHOOEE FER A MINNIT THAR AH THOUGHT YUH WUZ...
GONNA
GONNA Y'
WHY ME? WHY, ALL TH' DANG TIME, IS IT ME?

BACK, FOUL SUBURBANITE
WUD'S IT SAY? HANH?
GIVE ME A SECOND TO GET IT OPEN
EAT DELEGATE, YUH SOCIAL-CLIMBIN' WAHOO!
HEY!
SO LONG AS HER POSITION IS THAT OF ADVISOR ONLY, AND ONLY OF SUB-CABINET RANK
SHE HAS NO OBJECTIONS
GIT THOSE FINGERS BACK BEHIND THET RAILIN' AFORE AH SNAP 'EM OFF AT TH' SHOULDER!
THE ABBESS ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF YOUR LETTER AND, AS REGARDS YOUR COUNTER-OFFER OF RETAINING ASTORIA ...
THE FIFTEEN REPRESENTATIVES ARE YOURS ...
CONGATULATIONS, "MR. PRIME MINISTER"
I THOUGHT I SMELLED MONEY WHEN I WOKE UP T'DAY

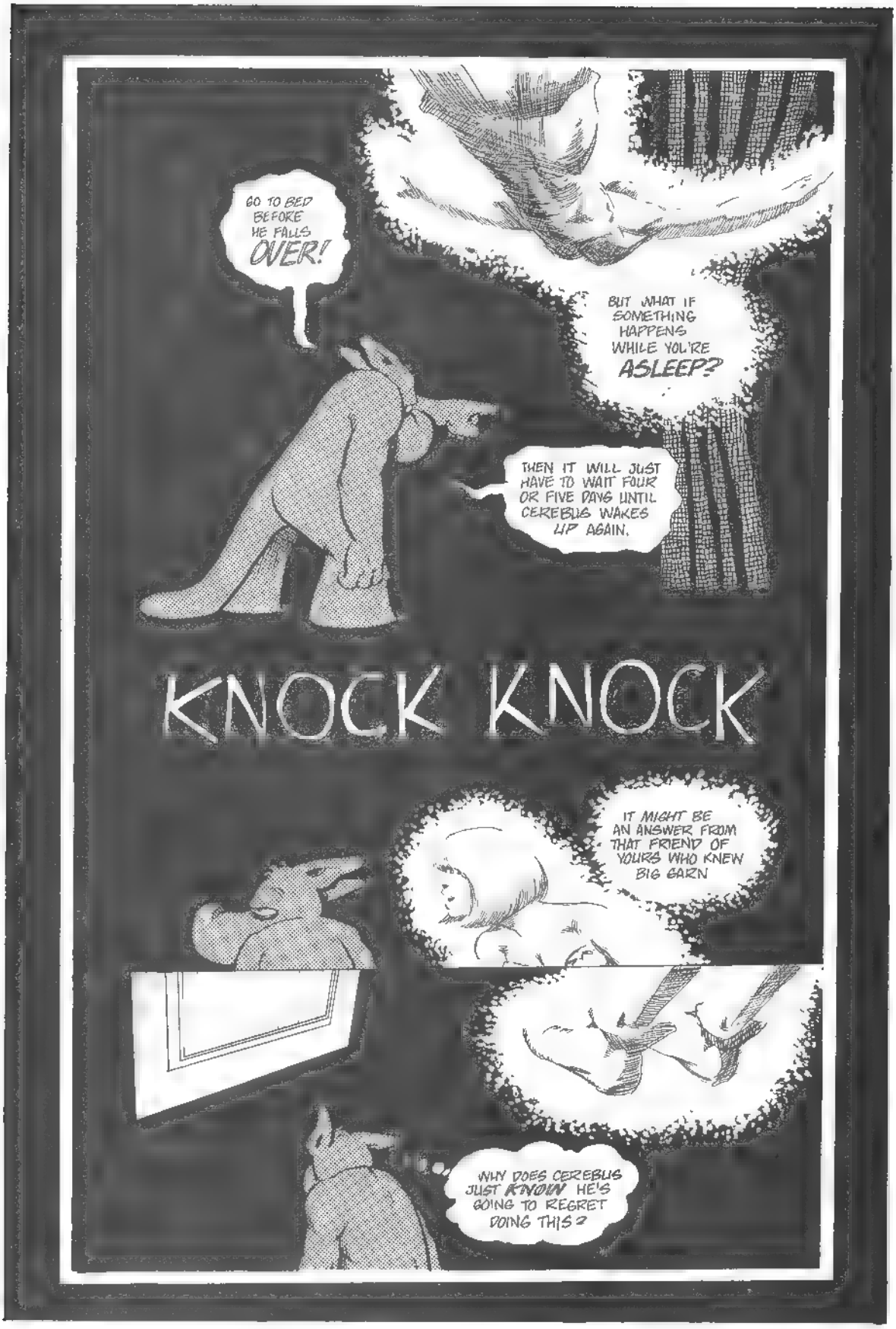
WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH THAT WAS QUITE A STIRRING SPEECH
NOT AT ALL, WE'RE JUST DELIGHTED, WHENEVER WE HAVE A CHANCE TO SEE THE HEART-LAND OF THIS GREAT CITY-STATE.
HOW KIND
IT WILL ONLY BE THROUGH THE COMBINED EFFORTS OF ALL THESE GRASS-ROOTS COMMUNITIES THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO GET THIS CITY-STATE MOVING AGAIN
WE MUST ALL SHARE IN THE TASK OF RESTORING CONFIDENCE AND PROSPERITY
GOODBYE FOR NOW.
PRIEST.
DID ANYONE GET THE NAME OF THAT CATTLE TROUGH?
OLDHAM.
ASTORIA SEZ "TH' CANDIDATE" NEEDS THAR SIX SEATS
ASTORIA ALSO SAYS "THE CANDIDATE" NEEDS HER
WHICH SHOWS HOW MUCH SHE KNOWS.

GUESS WHAT
GUESS WHAT
GUESS WHAT
GUESS WHAT
ELF. CEREBUS HAS BEEN TRAVELLING SINCE LAST NIGHT. NO RIDDLES OKAY?
ASTORIA TOLD ARTEMIS TO FIND IT FOR HER!
OKAY. ONE RIDDLE
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
LISTEN
LISTEN
LISTEN
LISTEN
LISTEN!

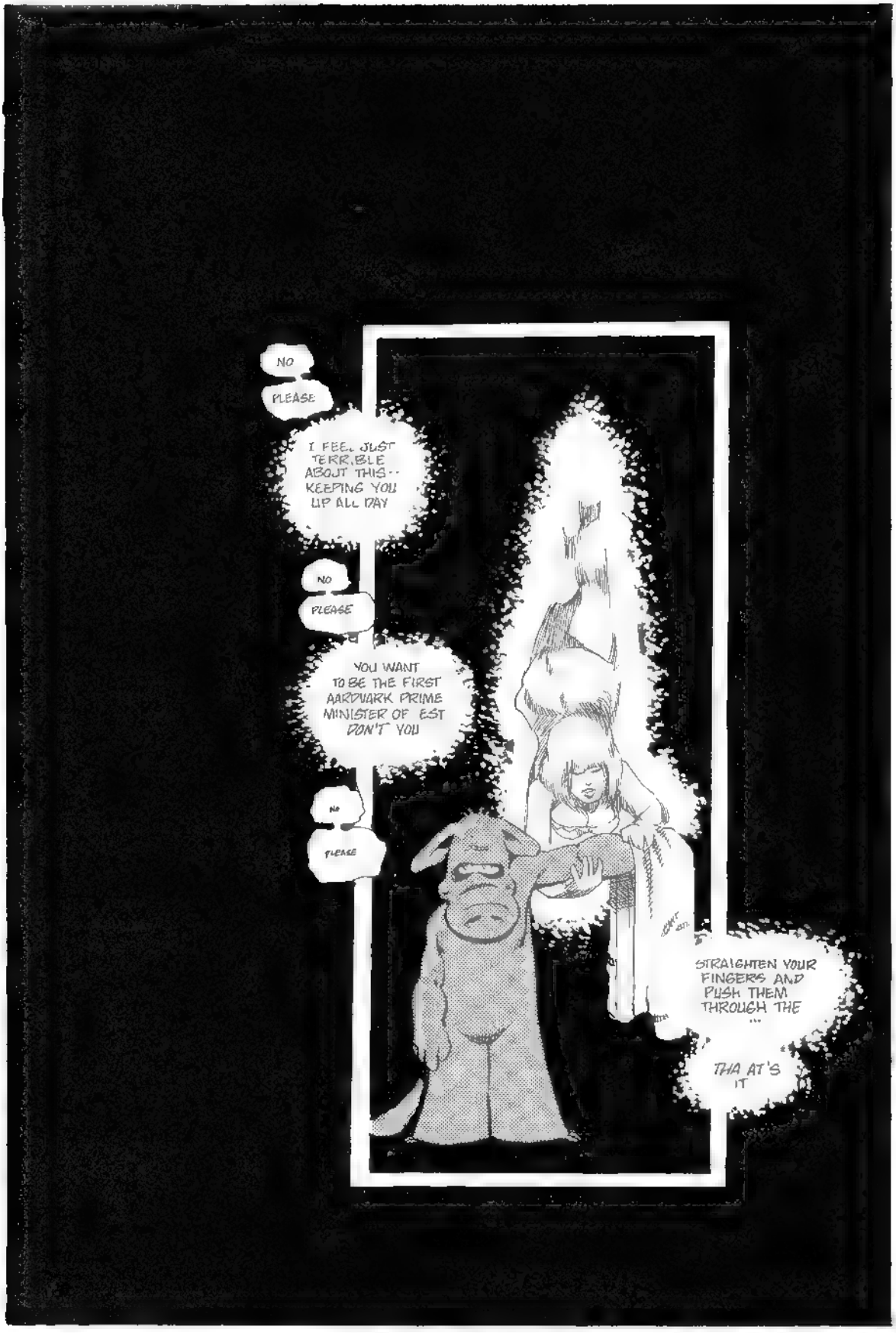
ARTEMIS GOT DRUNK HERE LAST NIGHT WHEN YOU WENT TO SEE ASTORIA
UH-HUH
AND AFTER HE WAS DRUNK, HE TRIED TO LEAVE, BUT HE COULDN'T GET HIMSELF UP AND UP, SO INSTEAD HE WENT AWOOOOO
UH-HUH
AND AFTER HE WENT AWOOOOO HE WENT WHAM REAL LOUD!
UH-HUH
SO I WENT OVER TO SEE IF HE WAS OKAY AND HE WAS SORT OF TALKING TO HIMSELF, BUT IT WAS LIKE HE WASN'T REALLY HIM...
IT WAS SOMEBODY ELSE NAMED KEVITCH, WITH A REAL HIGH SQUEAKY VOICE LIKE A YOUNG BOY...
KEVITCH RIGHT
AND KEVITCH SAID THAT THE MOON ROACH WAS MAKING A PLAN, WHICH WAS SILLY BECAUSE HE WAS JUST LYING THERE WITH SALIVA TRICKLING OUT OF THE CORNER OF HIS MOUTH, BUT HE SAID HE WAS MAKING A PLAN TO MAKE ASTORIA LOVE HIM AGAIN...

AND HE SAID IF HE COULD JUST FIND THE ANTIQUE SHE WAS LOOKING FOR THAT SHE WOULD FALL BACK IN LOVE WITH HIM AND... AND..
AND WHAT?
WELL, HE WENT ON FOR A WHILE ABOUT WHAT SHE WOULD DO TO HIM UNDER THE COVERS WHEN SHE LOVED HIM AGAIN...
OKAY
SKIP THAT PART
AND THEN HE STARTED DESCRIBING HOW HE WOULD JUST HAVE TO FIND ALL OF THE RED CLAW CRIMINAL MASTERMIND EXPLOITERS OF THE DISADVANTAGED AND MAKE THEM ALL EAT A FEW KNUCKLE SANDWICHES UNTIL THEY TOLD HIM WHERE TO FIND THE ANTIQUE ASTORIA IS LOOKING FOR...
UH HUH
AND THAT'S WHEN HE SAID IT...
HOOO
SA'D WHAT?
HE SAID HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT AN ALBATROSS LOOKS LIKE!
THE DUCK STATUE
YES!
YES!
YES!
YES!

DAWN
THESE LETTERS ARE TO GO OUT IMMEDIATELY BRING ANY REPLIES STRAIGHT TO ME...
VERY GOOD M'LORD
LATE MORNING
"NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE AS TO WHEREABOUTS OF FENCE KNOWN AS BIG GARN"
DON'T WORRY. THAT'S ONLY THE FIRST ANSWER
MID-AFTERNOON
"DON'T KNOW"
"NO STATUE FOUND ON PREMISES AFTER HIS DISAPPEARANCE"
"RUMOURS OF ABDUCTION IN HIS NEIGHBOURHOOD"
"GONE AWAY"
"NOT A POLICE MATTER"
AT LEAST THEY SAID THEY WERE SORRY THEY COULDN'T HELP YOU...
EARLY EVENING
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING LEFT FOR CEREBUS TO DO...
WHAT'S THAT?


GO TO BED BEFORE HE FALLS OVER!
BUT WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENS WHILE YOU'RE ASLEEP?
THEN IT WILL JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOUR OR FIVE DAYS UNTIL CEREBUS WAKES UP AGAIN.
KNOCK KNOCK
IT MIGHT BE AN ANSWER FROM THAT FRIEND OF YOURS WHO KNEW BIG GARN
WHY DOES CEREBUS JUST KNOW HE'S GOING TO REGRET DOING THIS?

WORD JUST CAME THROUGH THAT SOMEHOW LORD JULIUS GOT A BILL PASSED BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE WAS DISSOLVED FOR THE ELECTION WHICH REDUCES THE NUMBER OF SEATS IN GREATER IEST TO EIGHT FROM TWENTY WHICH MEANS ASTORIA NOW FIGURES YOU HAVE TWENTY-NINE SEATS GUARANTEED WHEN IN FACT WITH SUPPORT YOU HAVE FROM GRACE DISTRICT YOU NOW HAVE FORTY-FIVE SEATS GUARANTEED SIX SEATS SHORT OF A MAJORITY GOVERNMENT SO WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE THAN TO HEAD NORTH AND TRY TO DRUM UP SUPPORT IN THE FARMING COMMUNITIES ASTORIA WANTS YOU DOWNSTAIRS IN FIVE MINUTES, BUT I CAN'T WAIT AROUND BECAUSE I HAVE FOUR MORE PEOPLE TO NOTIFY AND ASTORIA SAYS WE'R LATE ALREADY BE A STLY SHORT NOTICE I KNOW AND I AM AWFULLY SORRY HAVE TO GO NOW BYE
OH DEAR
NO.
PLEASE


NO
PLEASE
I FEEL JUST TERRIBLE ABOUT THIS-- KEEPING YOU UP ALL DAY
NO
PLEASE
YOU WANT TO BE THE FIRST AARDVARK PRIME MINISTER OF EST DON'T YOU
NO
PLEASE
STRAIGHTEN YOUR FINGERS AND PUSH THEM THROUGH THE ...
THA AT'S IT

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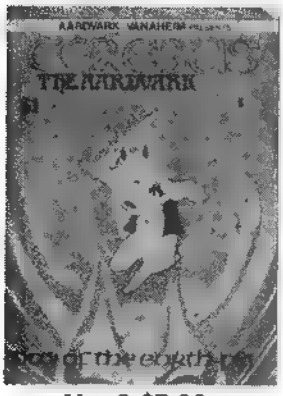

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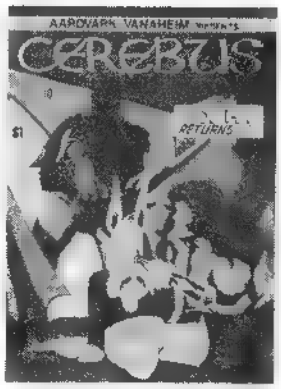

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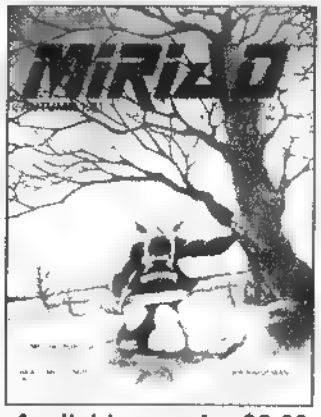

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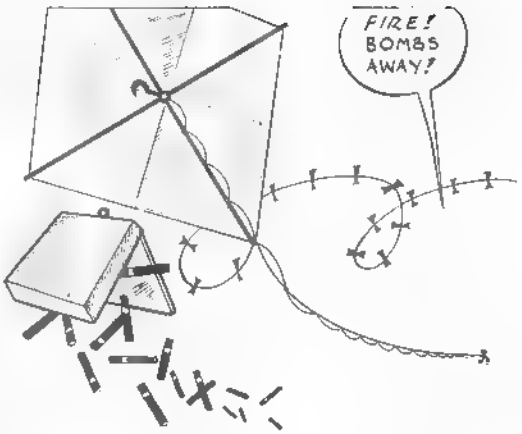
A UNIQUE STORY

Neil the Horse
THE MAGIC BALLOON
GEE, SOAPY'S MY BEST FRIEND, BUT I NEVER HAVE ANY MONEY TO BUY HIM A BIRTHDAY PRESENT! AND HE HAS NINE BIRTHDAYS A YEAR!
AH! TO CONCOCT CONTURBATION IS SWEET – YES, DIABLO?
IT IS INDEED THE VERY STUFF OF LIFE, DIEGO!
DOORKNOB WORLD
ARN SABA
TAKE HEART, FOR YOUR HOUR OF TRIAL IS PAST!
TO YOU WE BRING A RARE DEVICE – A BALLOON OF POTENT MAGIC!
OH YEH? A MAGIC BALLOON! WOW! ... UH – WHAT DOES IT DO?
ANYTHING CAN BE YOURS!
MERELY MAKE A WISH, AND FOLLOW THE BALLOON TO YOUR HEART'S DESIRE!
OH YEH? I CAN HAVE ANYTHING? HOW ABOUT A CIGAR FOR SOAPY?
WH-WHAT TIME IS IT? OOOH! ME HEAD! KEEP IT DOWN, EH?
THE BALLOON HEARS!
HASTEN! ALREADY YOUR WISH IS ALOFT UPON THE ZEPHYRS!
HONK!
GEE, THANKS!
WHAT THE –? HEY! NEIL! WATCH OUT!
OH, ME CRANIUM!
CREEEE

GEEZ, HE'S EVEN TOO STUPID TA GIT HIT!
WHAT'S HE DOIN'? -IF I WANTS ANY PEACE DIS MORNIN, I BETTER STOP 'IM!
WE HAVE DISCOVERED A SUBJECT OF RARE GULLIBILITY, DIABLO!
OH BOY! MAGIC!
J. CHIMP TOBACCON
SIGN HERE... SO WHERE D'YA WANT 'EM?
AW RIGHT HERE'S FINE.
WHY DOES HE ALWAYS PICK THE MORNIN' AFTER FOR DESE STUNTS? — NOW WHERE'D HE GO?
HEY! MOLESTING PRIVATE PROPERTY! ABRIDGING THE RIGHTS OF THE SMALL BUSINESSMAN!
HO! THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT! BE WARNED! THE LONG ARM OF THE LAW IS AFOOT!
THERE'S A CAT UNDER MY CIGARS!
SOAPY! I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN! I WARN YOU, CAT, THE WEED OF CRIME BEARS BITTER FRUIT!
CIGARS DIS CHEAP IS DEFINITELY A WEED OF CRIME!
AHA! RESISTING ARREST! INDIFFERENCE AFTER THE FACT! MALICIOUS AFTERTHOUGHT! DECEASE AND DESIST, FELON!
CLANCY, HOW'S ABOUT AT LEAST CUTTIN' THE WHISTLE?
THE TURNOUT EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS, DIABLO!
THE ATMOSPHERE IS INDEED RUMBUSTIOUS, DIEGO!
BOY, SOAPY IS SURE GOING TO BE HAPPY!
TWEET TWEET!
EAT
FUN
ARCADE

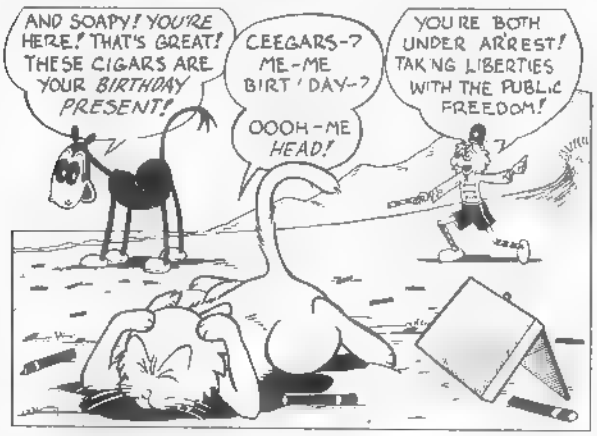
STEP RIGHT UP, LITTLE LADY! HIT THE DUCKS AND WIN A PRIZE!
WHAT DO I WIN F I HIT THE HORSE?
A FOOL AND HIS WISHES ARE NOT PARTED, DIABLO!
INDEED, FOOLS RUSH IN, DIEGO!
SHOOT KILL! FUN!
HORSE? WHAT HORSE?
HEY, IS THIS GAME CROOKED?
STOP DAT HORSE!
WOW! A CAT! WHAT DO I GET IF I HIT THE CAT?
POW! POW! POW!
TWANG! TWANG!
FLANG!
YIPE! YA GITS A DEAD CAT, LADY!
GIMME MY PRIZE, DUDE!
HERE'S A BOX OF CIGARS!
RING DEM BELLS!
CIGARS!? THAT'S NO PRIZE FOR A LADY! I WANT A DOLLY!
ALRIGHT, WHERE DO YOU KEEP YOUR DOLLIES?
OPTIONAL ACCESSORY TO A CRIME! BEFUDDLE AN OFFICER, WILL YOU? SURRENDER TO THE HANDS OF JUSTICE! PAY YOUR DEBT TO SOCIETY!
PUT IT ON MY VISA CARD, CLANCY!
IT SURE IS GOING FAR! THIS MUST BE A REAL SPECIAL CIGAR!
NOW, NOW, RATCLIFFE! PLAY NICE!

WHAT THE DEUCE? WHERE ARE MY....? RATCLIFFE! HAVE YOU PURLOINED MY HAVANA PERFECTOS?
WHAT? YOU MEAN MY CLUSTER BOMB? READY- AIM...


FIRE! BOMBS AWAY!

THIS IS IT! IT'S RAINING CIGARS! Y-A-A-A-A-Y!
HA! PERHAPS SOME DEVILISH RUSE!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SOAPY!
NEIL, I DOESN'T KNOW WHAT ME LIFE WOULD BE LIKE WIT'OUT YOU AROUND...
BA_LY ODD! THEY SEEM TO HAVE VANISHED!
PERHAPS MAGIC IS IN THE EVE OF THE BEHOLDER, D'AB_O!
INDEED, AND POSSIBLY WISHES ARE HORSES, DIEGO!
MOOMPH!


AND SOAPY! YOU'RE HERE! THAT'S GREAT! THESE CIGARS ARE YOUR BIRTHDAY PRESENT!
CEEGARS-? ME-ME BIRT'DAY-?
OOOH-ME HEAD!
YOU'RE BOTH UNDER ARREST! TAK'NG LIBERTIES WITH THE PUBLIC FREEDOM!

JEEZ, CAN YA SPARE US THE AJDIO PORTION, CLANCY?—AND SEE DAT SIGN? YEZ JIST STEPPED OUTSIDE A' YER JURISDICTION!
HERE, HAVE A CEEGAR!
WHAT? LOOPHOLES! THE LAW'S HANDS ARE FIT TO BE TIED!
CITY LIMITS

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BASIC DIAMONDBACK

The Order of the Hands.

Magician-Priestess	60 pts
Priestess-Priestess	60 pts
Magician-Queen	50 pts
Magician-King	50 pts.
Priestess-King	45 pts.
Priestess-Queen	45 pts.
Priestess-Priest	40 pts.
Queen-King	40 pts
Magician-Priest	40 pts.
Queen-Queen	35 pts
King-King	35 pts
Queen Priest.	30 pts
King-Priest	30 pts.
Priest-Priest	25 pts.

(Our apologies for leaving these out of the printed rules.)

Match Diamondback

KARET, the variation described in Swords #1 was essentially a lower middle class variation popular in Lower Feldaest and other major population centres. The act of ***doubling*** the initial wager was in fact a peculiarity of the emerging urban centres reflecting the concentration of currency in the densely-populated capitals of the southern city states. The more money available in a city, the more frenzied the betting in its lower and upper-middle class taverns.

MATCH DIAMONDBACK on the other hand was the game of preference among the stingy military personnel of Onhiu and was much tamer when compared with its metropolitan cousin. Onhiu soldiers were paid by the government a wage of twenty copper bits a month out of which they were required to "kick-back" a certain percentage for food, lodgings and other necessities. As a consequence, the Onhiu soldier might have only three bits left for betting after his expenses were paid. Match diamondback was usually played with representative chips of varying denominations and it was not unusual for several hundred chips to be bet in a marathon game over several days for the sake of two or three copper bits that they represented.

THE DECK consists of 1 magician, 2 priestesses, 3 queens, 4 kings and 5 priests. For three players, the deck consists of 1 magician, 4 priestesses, 6 queens, 8 kings and 10 priests (two decks minus one magician). For four players, the deck consists of 1 magician, 5 priestesses, 9 queens, 12 kings and 15 priests (three decks minus two magicians).

THE HANDS magician-priestess 70 pts., priestess-priestess 65 pts., magician-queen 60 pts., magician-king 55 pts., priestess-king 50 pts., priestess-queen 45 pts., priestess priest 40 pts., queen-king 35 pts., magician-priest 30 pts., queen-queen 25 pts., king-king 20 pts., queen-priest 15 pts., king-priest 10 pts., priest-priest 5 pts.

THE GAME begins with a draw for high card. Winner deals the first hand, two cards face down to each player. Each player examines his cards and the dealer makes a wager which must be matched by each of the other players (there is traditionally no ante in Match Diamondback. A player who folds on each hand can play all night and not lose a single coin). Each player then exposes one of his cards and the dealer initiates a new round of betting, each player choosing whether to match the dealer's wager or fold. Winning hand takes the pot. In the case of a tie between two players' hands, the pot is continued over into the next hand. If there are three players in the game and two are tied on a hand, the pot is split between the two players. If all three are tied, the pot is carried over into the next hand. If there are four players in a game and two players' hands are tied in points, the pot is split between the two tied players. If three or four players are tied in points, the pot is carried over into the next hand.

THE MOST UNIQUE FEATURE of Match Diamondback is the rule that the game must continue until a majority of the players involved agree to end it. (In a two-man game, both would have to agree. In a three-man game two would have to agree and in a four-man game, three would have to agree.) Very often another soldier would be asked to hold the contested coins in trust until a game was decided. "Coin-men" were responsible for organizing the closest approximation of a banking system ever to evolve in Onhiu's loosely-knit military society, lending coins held in trust, fencing loot from military raids into neighboring countries, etc. It was not unusual for a game to drag on over several months, since a player leaving the game before a consensus was reached forfeited his winnings.

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Dear Deni and Dave

It has been my observation that hanging around in comic shops can get you ahead in this world. Case in point. I recently met a very good local artist while searching for my new titles. Whenever my friends and I meet new people who are also fans, we get into extensive discussions on the merits (or lack of merits) in mainstream comics. This day was no exception. It came up that I am putting together an alternative comic showcasing the work of writers and artists in the Atlanta area. He showed up at my house a few days later with examples of his work, and among them were sketches of Cerebus. When questioned about what "it" was, he urged me to buy one and find out for myself.

Later, at the good ol' comic shop I picked up a copy of 36 and read it in the store. I quickly picked up two more copies (back issues) and cursed myself for having only $5.00. Never ever ever before have I received such feeling of power and perfection from a story, and my awe is even more increased in light of the fact that I really felt for these characters who are totally unfamiliar to me. Wow. Amazingly enough, I am now at a total loss for words. Thanks for Cerebus, it is much needed in the rather barren world of comics today.

Rob Blackburn
c/o Lawnchair Comics, Ltd
4601 Buford Way
Chanblee, Ga

This is for the benefit of those people who maintain that you cannot enjoy Cerebus without knowing everything that is going on. Try being a little more patient. I think you'll find Cerebus worth the trouble some day.

Dear Dave

"Merely Magnificent!" cries the larynx of the appreciative fan. I was dilatory in fleeing me hence to the comic book store and thus was able to make off with issues 38 and 39 of the earthpig born in one swell foop. As foops go, it was indeed pretty swell. The excruciatingly frustrating scene in 38 where Astoria dissuaded the aardvark from dicing and slicing Elrod was yet another vindication of your eschewal of the his-sword-wove-a-glittering-web-of steel-as-he-reaped-a-bloody-harvest stories. The embourgeoisement of Cerebus was necessary for this and the whole issue of 36, but anyone who still repairs to the Ram's Lord's with a sack of flour and studded chain is not yet down for the count. To paraphrase Dirty Fleagle, stand whar yer at, fancy boy, if the result is stories as hilarious and deftly convincing as these.

Which brings me to #39. If Jim Bertrand was the catalyst for all this, he should get to lick apricot brandy out of Jaka's navel. It reminded me of those self-indulgent super-star jam sessions that you sometimes get at rock benefits. Lord Julius, Elrod, the Regency Elf, and those two crowdpleasers in the Tompkins household, Dirty Fleagle and his baby brother Dirty Drew. We all collapsed laughing and had to cover our valuables. Plus the self-defenestration of Cootie. Between that and his use of the albino as a featherduster, I'd say Cerebus had managed to avenge some of the indignities he's suffered of late. I don't suppose there's any chance of stuffing the McGrew brothers and perhaps Astoria into the closet with Lord Julius, Elrod and Cerebus, to the point of making it a *Night at the Opera* stateroom scene. Astoria finds Cerebus maddening enough, I'm amazed she ever could have tolerated Julius' verbal filigrees to get married in the first place. She is better looking than Margaret Dumont, though. As for the appearance by Julius' brother Leonard, as a consolation until the blessed event we have the Sepran soldiers in *The Beguiling*, "I'ma show you da ugliest lil' gorl I'onna whor' ' 'Shoo, shoo."

A word of explanation; it was my younger brother who wrote in with the paranoid fantasy about Bill Mantlo taking over. He has never been the same since Godcorp did what they did to the Little Guy. Of late, he has started raving about a special Aardvarkworld issue, featuring interviews with Aardvark Schwarzenegger, Aardvark longa, vita brevis. And there could be a tastefully rendered scene of Cerebus in bed with Jaka. Consider it assuming the Mantlo of greatness.

I was sure ("shoo") that the run of white covers would continue till *High Society* was finito.

Steven Tompkins
938 Johnson Hall
Columbia University
New York, N.Y. 10027

For performance of Aarvarkian loyalty above and beyond the call of duty, Jim Bertrand is belatedly granted a ceremonial lick. Step forward and present tongue, you lucky dog.

Dear Dave and Deni

It was only the beginning of this year that I discovered your wonderful aardvark. I bought the three Swords Volumes because of all those rave reviews I kept coming across in various

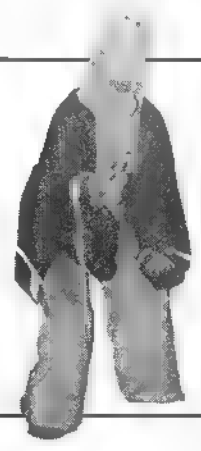

Photo by Terry O'Brien

A TALE OF TWO AARDVARKS

The July 1982 Chicago Comicon featured not one but two aardvark costumes in its costume parade. Pictured at left is Rose Hille resplendant in High Society bathrobe and brandishing the world's smallest sword. At right is young Patrick Lackey who reportedly almost suffered EPMD (Earth-pig Melt-down) in the 37° + heat at Chicago's American - Congress Hotel.

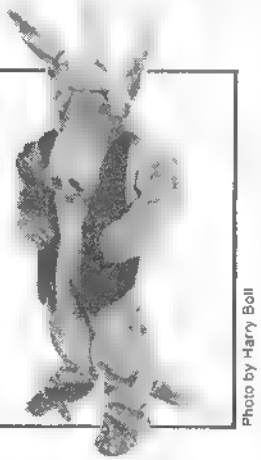

Photo by Harry Boll

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

fanzines - especiilay BEM, a brit sh zine you may have heard of I found everything I heard to be justified I was, as so many before me, instantly hooked on this brill non-burrowing burrowing animal. Grey is the colour to be, it would seem, and three feet high -- so I am dyeing myself accordingly and undergoing major surgery Fortunately my toes were modified for digging some time ago when I first became a member of the Unholy Legion of the Unemployed Listen mates, you have started an earth pig fandom in a tiny east coast town on the other side of the Atlantic from you Your influence is far-reaching Well, does power tend to corrupt? If it does it's not showing in your creation yet -- which remains painstaking, detailed, deep and innovative i.e. totally unlike the smug product of certain large and complacent comic companies who seem to only turn out 10% good stuff eg DAREDEVIL, whereas independents such as A V and WARP turn out 100% good stuff You have one title to concentrate on - and the love and care goes in like a long snout into an anthill and sux out the ants of artistry and magic and places them in the aardvarkian oral orifice of your great, great comic. The caring shows, folks, and the lucky readers get readable creativity, not PRODUCT

You'll be pleased to hear that the-creature-with-the-Dutch-name-and-large-pointed-ears- and -who- now- looks-less-like-a-bunny's comic is receiving better distribution over here now I have no trouble picking up consecutive issues, (even back issues), every month -- a little late but better by far than never

As for your new back-ups -- a spiffy idea -- a great showcase. It's heartwarming to see that now you're making it big you are giving a helping hand to other upcoming artists That says a lot of good things about you both I especially enjoyed the Dr Franklin strip -- very offbeat, very funny, very chilling, and damn good story, too! Could we please see more work by the talented Mr Loebs?

Great Lettercol, nice photos, I'm looking forward to Swords#4 (Barry Smith, really? Kind of full circle, yes?)

All the very best of luck

Chris Green
24 Brookland Ave.
Cleethorpes, South Humberside
England

Bill Loebs is presently developing an idea for a possible five or six issue mini-series for Aardvark-Vanaheim -(Note - see note from the publisher for more info. Deni) Reaction to Dr Franklin has been overwhelmingly positive, by the way

Dear Dave and Deni

If Cerebus is not going to ask Astoria his fourth and fifth questions can I?

Daniel Pe
7002 Boulevard East, Apt 231G
Guttenburg, N J

No.

Dear Dave

Now you ve done it. I'm going to have to make a fool out of myself (a task no one needs to help me with)

The last three issues of Cerebus were brilliant. "The Night Before" (#36) left me both stunned and a bit misty eyed at the ending "It's Showtime (#37) was biting and witty "Petuniacon Day Two" showed the usual high quality character development along with a fantastic layout

See . . I told you Nothing is more boring or repetitious than a letter stating how "wonderful" the last issue(s) are/were I had always hoped that when I first wrote to you I could be clever, insightful, witty, etc But the last three issues made such a giant impression that I could not sit and wait for the right moment I've read all your issues (probably the "first" time you've heard that) and find that you possess an extremely rare talent That talent is multiple level writing (for lack of a better term) Lots of current artists (in the "underground" and "overground") are writing exciting stories, doing smart layouts, and attracting attention and followers. However, for the most part they are one level writers. The stories may be exciting, funny, satirical, or whatever they choose; the characters well defined and either original or parodies, and they may be single issues or "sagas'

However you combine all of the above mentioned elements. Like those rare "wits" (as they were known in earlier times) Robert Benchley, James Thurber, Will Rogers, Segar, Walt Kelly and Gerry Trudeau, your stories and actions can be read on many levels. Yes, I can read Cerebus for the fun or the adventures . . or I can look at the comments (many times subtle occasionally blatantly obvious) on society, traditions or politics They can be re-read over and over with equal enjoyment for I always see something new

With all the renewed interest in science fiction and fantasy (including many college courses and critical essays/books) and the increase of folks analysing everything, I am sure the day will come when Cerebus is included in required reading along with *Alice in Wonderland, Gulliver's Travels, 1984, Brave New World* and *Animal Farm* Enough of this foolish prattle (before I start lecturing on the necessity for such quality writing) Let me just re-state that the last three issues are without a doubt among my favorite comics with#36 ranking especially high It' emotional content and wit rivaled almost anything I've seen in recent years and that includes the much lauded E.T (The Extra Terrestrial) Thanks for the experience

P S Is Cerebus selling his tree drawings?

John Cawley, Jr
1509 Avenida
Fullerton, CA

Yes, owing to the enormous expenses incurred on next issue's campaign swing though the Northern provinces, Cerebus is liquidating his entire collection Send $5 00 to Aardvark-Vanaheim, Inc. and we'll see that he gets it Be sure to specify if you want leaves on it (for an additional charge of $3 00 per leaf) Each sketch is autographed by Cerebus himself Trust me

Dave and Deni

What could I say about Cerebus #39 that hasn't been said about Shakespeare, Moliere, or Moe, Larry and Curly? 'Twas a surprising issue!

Cerebus was in top form, and it's no wonder that he blew his top with Elrod

Oh, by the way, in regards to your "notes" section, since Cerebus isn't a "thinly veiled autobiographical manifestation" or what have you, I do believe that I spotted you in this issue You're Lord Julius' shower cap, right Dave? A shabbily disguised autobiographical manifestation of your true feelings!

Now, don t repress it. You feel that you're riding on Julius to the road to success (hence the showercap) Now, don t you feel better now that you've let it out? Hmmm?

John A Wilcox
40 Hales Court
Westport, CT

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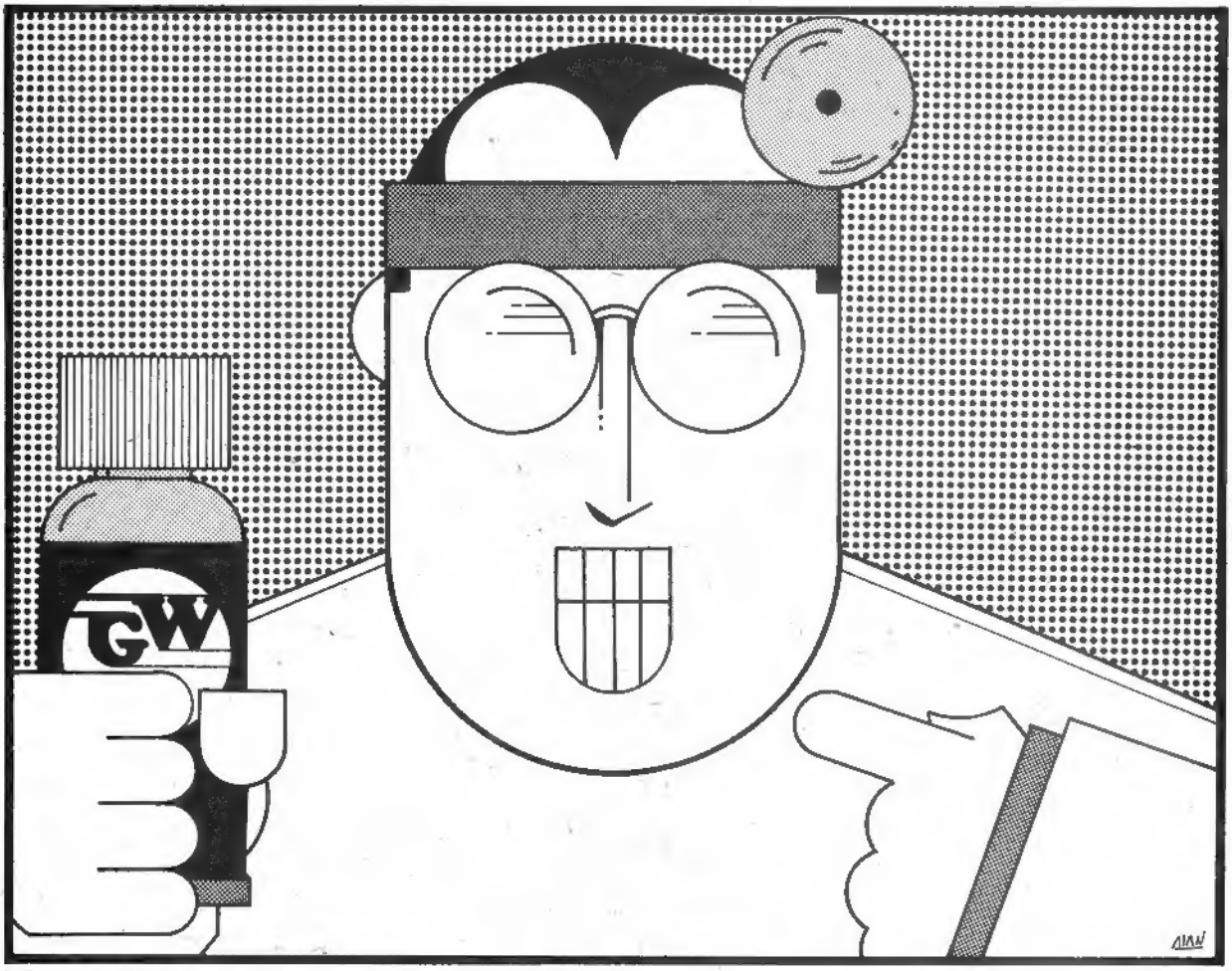

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612½ Edmunson Ave.

Oct. 9 - Silver Springs, MD
"Geppi's Comic World"
8305 Fenton St.

Oct. 12 - Louisville, KY
"The Great Escape"
2433 Bardstown Rd.

Oct. 13 - Richmond VA
"Nostalgia Plus"
5610 Patterson Ave.

Oct. 14 - Atlanta, GA
"The Book Nook"
3342 Clairmont Rd. N.E.

Oct. 15 - Largo, FL
"Geppi's Comic World"
2226 East Bay Drive

Oct. 16 - Richardson, TX
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
"Remember When"
581 W. Campbell #119

Oct. 16 - Fort Worth, TX
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.
"Fantastic Worlds"
4816A Camp Bowie Blvd.

Oct. 16 - Arlington, TX
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
"Collector's Corner"
Forum 303, Shopping Mall

Oct. 17 - Dallas, TX
"Remember When"
2431 Valwood Parkway

Oct. 21 - Berkeley, CA
"Comics and Comix"
2461 Telegraph Ave.

Oct. 22 - Palo Alto, CA
"Comics and Comix"
515 Cowper St.

Oct. 24 - Sacramento, CA
"Comics and Comix"
6135 Sunrise Blvd., Citrus Heights

Oct. 26 - Santa Barbara, CA
"Andromeda"
741 Dela Guerra Plaza

Oct. 28 - San Diego, CA
"Comic Kingdom"
1629 University Ave.

Oct. 29 - Long Beach, CA
"Hi De Ho Comics"
2142 E. 4th Street

Oct. 31 - Santa Monica, CA.
"Hi De Ho Comics"
525 Santa Monica Blvd.

Nov. 5 - Boulder, CO
"Mile High Comics"
1717 Pearl

Nov. 6 - Denver, CO
10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
"Mile High Comics"
2901 E. Colfax

2:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.
"Mile High Comics"
308 S. Broadway

Nov. 7 - Colorado Springs, CO
"Mile High Comics"
220 N. Tejon